

## What About Tongues?

**Acts 11:15-17** "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit **fell upon** them just as He did upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with** the Holy Spirit.' Therefore if God gave to them the same gift **as He gave to us** also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

### The Question: Are Tongues the Norm?

*Hapax legomenon* is from the Greek ἅπαξ λεγόμενον "[something] said only once."

A good rule of thumb for establishing a doctrine is to not make a ἅπαξ λεγόμενον a doctrine.

### **Emphasis for Being Filled with the Spirit:**

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you, **and you will be my witnesses...**

**Acts 4: 31** And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with **boldness**.

### What about Paul's claim?

**1 Corinthians 14:18** I thank God that *I speak in other languages more than all of you*.

**Jude 20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, *praying in the Holy Spirit...*

### Questions to Consider:

- Are Tongues for Today?
- If not, when did they cease?
- Why?

### *Scripture (NASB, 1995)*

**Acts 2:4** And they were all **filled with** the Holy Spirit and **began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

**Acts 8:17-19** Then they [Peter and John] began laying their hands on them, and they were **receiving the Holy Spirit**. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 9:17** So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and **be filled with the Holy Spirit**."

**Acts 10:44, 46** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit **fell upon** all those who were listening to the message...For they **were hearing them speaking with tongues** and exalting God.

**Acts 19:2, 6** [Paul in Ephesus] He said to them, "Did you **receive** the Holy Spirit when you believed?"...And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, **and they began speaking with tongues** and prophesying.

## How to be Baptized with the Holy Spirit

- The Baptizer – Jesus!
  - NIV **John 1:32** Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven ...'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain ***is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.***' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is **the Son of God.**"
  - 'ev – (hen) translated:
    - “with” or “in” (“in” probably – conveys imagery of)
    - **not** “by” or “of” (implication: Holy Spirit - baptizer) (1 Cor. 12:13)
  
- Conditions:
  - Believe in Jesus Christ as Savior
  - Obedience – make right choices for daily living
  - Prayer – you are invited to ask
  - Faith – believe that Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
  - Yield – allow Jesus to baptize you in His Spirit
  
- No formula
  
- Some considerations:
  - Experience is for all – Joel 2:28-29
  - It is a gift – NOT the basis of merit (works)
  - Holy Spirit already indwells
  - Openness and Expectancy (cooperation)
  - Prayer and Praise lead naturally into the experience
  - The Laying of Hands is NOT necessary
  
- God is Sovereign!
  - Since the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift, the timing of its giving is in the hands of the Giver!
    - Consequently, do not give place for self-condemnation